

HEALTH
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WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR..... 1960

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:-

Dr. E.H. Markby.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

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Mrs. C.P.E. Saville.

Dr. D.G.A. Leggett.

Mr. A.E. Smeeth.

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WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT.

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B. Pharm. D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer. } 5/11th of time.
School Medical Officer. }
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum
Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. Gellender. M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

F. Caddick. M.R.S.H.

Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my annual
report for 1960.

Its pages reflect the greater contribution
to environmental health which can be made by adequate staffing,
and it is indeed doubtful if the manifold activity dictated
by the recent strides forward in slum clearance and main
drainage could have been achieved at all without extra staff.

I wish to record my appreciation of the
courtesy and consideration extended to me at all times by
the Council and its staff.

G.B. Hopkins.

March, 1962

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	653
Population as estimated (mid-year) by Registrar General.....	4270
Total number estimated of inhabited houses at 31/12/60.....	1320
Rateable value at 1st April, 1960.....	£60,517
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£243

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Comparative Standardised Statistics.</u>				
	<u>Wimborne Minster.</u>		<u>Administrative County.</u>		<u>England & Wales.</u>
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		
Number.....	45	21	24	11.5	15. 4. 17.1

STILLBIRTHS

Number..... 1 0 1

Infant Deaths..... 1 0 1

Maternal Mortality... 0

DEATHS

Number..... 40 19 21 69. 12.5 11.5

SECTION ANATURAL AND SOCIAL
CONDITIONS.

There was a very slight fall in the population.

The death rate was unusually low despite the highest contribution yet by lung cancer.

SECTION BAMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from the Civic Centre.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

This is situated at Boscombe and provides an excellent bacteriological service.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Wimborne every week.

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births..... 1.14
Deaths..... 0.74

SECTION C
PREVALANCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles.....	11
Whooping Cough.....	2
Pneumonia.....	1
Tuberculosis.....	2

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
Males.....	10	Males.....	C
Females.....	9	Females.....	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
Notification in Age Groups..... 1960

DISEASES.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	Over 35
Measles.....	-	2	-	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

BCG.	POLIOMYELITIS.		DIPHTHERIA.		WHOOPING COUGH.		TETANUS.		SMALLPOX	
	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
Infants										
101	261.	439.	92.	122.	80.	31.	165.	22.	45.	4
School leavers.										
314.										

P = Primary course of two or three injections.
B = Booster dose of one single injection.

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES
Causes of Death.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	1
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	4	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	1	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	3	2
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	7	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	1
20. Other heart disease.....	-	4
21. Other circulatory disease.....	1	3
22. Influenza.....	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	2	1
24. Bronchitis.....	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease.....	-	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-
34. All other accidents.....	-	1
35. Suicide.....	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-
	119	21

ADMINISTRATION

A whole time medical officer took the place of the half time medical officer performing County Council duties in East Dorset, and substantially released me for district council duties.

Mr. F. Caddick returned to Wimborne in May, 1960, in the capacity of Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager, and his accession to the staff had already amply demonstrated its value by the end of the year. The combined post which he holds is very apt to his experience and qualifications, and he was very fully occupied from the day of his appointment as the following pages testify.

VERMINOUS PERSONS.

It is pleasing to report that no action was necessary in this connection throughout the year.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

A start to bringing matters up to date was made and your Public Health Inspector made twenty three visits to food premises. One verbal preliminary notice was given.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

Early in the year a difficult case in this category was dealt with. The patient was an elderly man suffering from a fatal disease, the nature of which he was not aware. He was in lodgings in a single room and was very emphatically persona non grata to his landlord, to whom he was abusive despite his dependent position. He had also made a practice of abusing any doctor who attempted to treat him.

After a long preliminary talk with this man and prior arrangement with the chronic sick bed service, I persuaded him to voluntarily accompany me into hospital. Thereafter a little persuasion was necessary to convince him that he was better off in hospital than wandering in search of lodgings, but he died suddenly five weeks after admission.

No official action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act or under the 1951 Amendment.

WATER SUPPLY

(1) The public water supply is provided by the Bournemouth Water Company from a deep well.

The supply is chlorinated and softened, and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

(ii) Bacteriological sampling of raw water is continuously performed by the Company and representative results are given on the following page, together with chemical analysis. Fluoride is present at a consistent level of 0.8 p.p.m from which happy circumstance consumers' teeth are benefitted.

Nine samples of treated water submitted to the public health laboratory between May and December revealed completely satisfactory results:-

THE BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

WATER ANALYSIS

Sample Average Wimborne M.O.H.
1960.

B. Coliform P.N. in 100 ccs	0
Agar Cultures 24 hours at 37°C	0
" " 48 hours at 37°C	0
" " 72 hours at 22°C	1
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Absent 100 ml.
Colour (Burgess Scale)	4
Filtrability Index	-
pH	7.96
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C	369
Residual NH ₂ CL	0.18

Results in P.P.M.

Chlorine in Chlorides	22
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.84
Nitrogen in Nitrites	0.0087
Free Ammonia	0.103
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.085
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.053
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.031
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 37°C)	0.112
Dissolved Oxygen	7.7
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	138.0
Silica as SiO ₂	19.0
Phosphates as P ₂ O ₅	-
Iron as Fe	Nil
Total Solids + Suspended	-
Total Dissolved Solids	240.0
Total Hardness	173.0
Carbonate Hardness	138.0
Noncarbonate Hardness	35.0

BACTERIA RESULTS.

1960.

<u>SAMPLE.</u>	<u>No. of Tests.</u>	<u>Probable Number</u> <u>Coliform Organisms</u> <u>per 100 ml.</u>			<u>24 hours at 37 Deg.C.</u>			<u>48 Hours at 37 Deg.C.</u>			<u>78 hours at 22 Deg.C.</u>			<u>Average Residual Chlorine.</u>
		<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Average.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Average.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Average.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Average.</u>	
Wimborne Well.	54	3	0	0	2	0	0	46	0	3	53	0	7	-
Wimborne Treated Water to Supply.	62	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	1	9	0	1	0.19

WATER - Contd.

- (iii) The waters have no plumbo-solvent action.
- (IV) No action has been called for to prevent contamination.
- (V) (a) 1,320 dwelling houses and a population of 4,200 were supplied from public water mains direct to houses.
- (b) 14 standpipes supplied twenty houses and 70 persons.

SEWERAGE

Engineering works to completely sewer the district proceeded throughout the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

No action was necessary during the year.

HOUSING.

Substantial progress in slum clearance had already been made before 1960, but a mass of administrative details remained to be dealt with in 1960, and action on remaining individually unfit houses was initiated. County Court hearings on three cottages were held.

The adverse effects upon mental and physical health of some features of bad housing conditions are obvious to all, for instance, bucket closets to which flies, the weather, and the public gaze, have access, or faulty sewage disposal leading to contamination of water supplies or the atmosphere, but other features are less obvious without technical knowledge, and one has indeed heard it disputed that dampness and bad ventilation, for instance, are deleterious to health. The subject is worth pursuing.

A very large number of infective illnesses constituting the winter excess of morbidity, in addition to many occurring in summer, are contracted by breathing in minute droplets of infective material expelled from mouths and noses, ordinarily invisible and so small as to float suspended in the air for long periods. Whether an individual succumbs depends upon his resistance, the virulence of the organism, and the size of the infecting dose. The dose is clearly conditioned by the effectiveness of the ventilation. Good ventilation rapidly and continuously minimises the number of tiny droplets, bad ventilation allows them to accumulate to overwhelming proportions, as well as having an obvious impact upon comfort.

Damp walls present a large surface for the continuous evaporation of moisture and are therefore continuously colder than dry walls to a degree which is capable of perception by the human body. In addition the atmosphere of a room which has damp walls is very moist, and moist air conducts heat better than dry air, and therefore ~~more~~/effectively cools the body. This explains why the Englishman much prefers very cold crisp dry weather to cold wet weather.

The prevalence of respiratory diseases in temperate climates during winter is obviously closely connected with the inclemency of the weather. The burden of my thesis is that the adverse factors of English/

weather in winter, to wit, cold and damp, should not be perpetuated within the home, which ought to be a total refuge from the weather, not something merely less bad.

The above, in my opinion, explains the bitter complaints of so many mothers in damp houses about the continual upper respiratory tract illnesses of their children. As a final protest against these conditions let it be added that after many years of research into the common cold a scientific advance was recently made when it was discovered against all experience and expectation, that some common cold viruses grow better in the laboratory at temperatures below that of the human body than other germs which need normal body temperature for growth in the laboratory. Can cold noses due to the cold wet atmosphere be responsible for the Englishman's susceptibility to the common cold? If so, he should guard against a cold wet nose in his own castle and leave such luxuries to the canine species, which is quite insusceptible to the common cold.

It only remains to add that dampness of serious degree has been swept away in your district during the slum clearance drive of the last five years, and no bad houses remain.

This is a record of which a small urban district has reason to be proud, and was achieved without undue opposition or upset owing to the team spirit which prevailed amongst officers and between officers and Council.

Lastly, but most important, the citizens involved are now re-housed or about to be re-housed, and are predominantly well pleased and well disposed, the public relations having been good throughout.

There follows a tabulated statement of the year's activity under Housing Act procedures, coupled with a resume of such activity during the five year programme:-

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Result of Action taken under Housing Acts.

<u>Clearance Areas.</u>	<u>During 1960</u>	<u>Total under 5 year programme</u>
Houses in confirmed Clearance Orders.....	14	83
Houses in confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders.	3	3
<u>Individual Unfit Houses.</u>		
Operative Demolition Orders.....	3	7
Operative Closing Orders.....	5	5
Closing Orders - Appeals pending.....	3	-
Undertakings to make houses fit.....	4	4
Houses demolished.....	4	5
Families re-housed.....	25	25

Further enumeration of the extensive work under the Housing Act, 1957, put in by your Public Health Inspector is appended later in the report.

OVERCROWDING

No dwellings were overcrowded.

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

<u>PREMISES.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u> (2)	<u>Inspections.</u> (3)	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u> (4)	<u>Occupiers Premises.</u> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	43	13	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.).....	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	47	13	3	-

The type of defect about which written notices were served referred to unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences, which were remedied.

Table 1 gives the number and nature of inspections made by your Public Health Inspector between the date of his appointment - May 1st, 1960 to 31st December, 1960, excluding visits made by him in his capacity as Housing Manager.

TABLE 1
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Investigation of Complaints.....	59
Re-inspection to see if conditions remedied.....	52
Drain tests.....	2
Water sampling.....	9
Markets.....	3
Flooding.....	16
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT</u>	
Ice Cream Samples.....	11
Ice Cream Shops re registration.....	2
Ice Cream Factory.....	2
Milk Dealers Premises.....	11
Milk Sampling.....	10
Visits to various food premises.....	18
Visits to food poisoning contact.....	1
<u>OTHER INSPECTIONS</u>	
Factories Acts.....	13
Caravans and Control of Sites Act.....	2
Public Health Laboratory.....	9
Miscellaneous.....	37

TABLE II provides evidence of the substantial action taken by your Public Health Inspector during his first eight months of office under various headings. The Court case was the first of its kind in living memory at the Wimborne Court, though thousands of such cases are routinely heard throughout the country.

TABLE II
SERVICE OF NOTICES (Other than Housing)

	Preliminary Notices.		Statutory Notices.	Court Orders.
	Verbal.	Written.		
NUISANCES - Sec.94 Public Health Act, 1936.....	1	15	7	1
PAVING - Sec.58 Public Health Act,1936.....	-	1	1	-
FACTORIES ACT.....	1	4	-	-
FOOD HYGIENE.....	1	-	-	-
CLEAN AIR ACT.....	1	-	-	-
CARAVANS.....	2	1	-	-
TOTALS.....	6	21	8	1

Table III reveals the type of complaints made by members of the public, some look trivial in tabulated form, but they loom large to complainants and their effective handling contributes to the general background of comfort and health of the town's inhabitants.

TABLE III
CONDITIONS FOUND AND REMEDIED UNDER
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. ETC.

Contraventions or defects.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Defective roofs.....	7	4
Defective gutters and pipes.....	4	3
Defective chimney stacks.....	2	1
Defective or choked drains.....	4	3
Dampness.....	5	2
Defective plaster.....	3	1
Defective floors.....	2	1
Defective firegrates.....	1	1
Defective and insufficient paving....	1	1
Nuisances from fowls.....	1	1
Nuisances from offensive smells.....	1	1
Smoke nuisances.....	1	1
Badly arranged sanitary accom.(factories.)	5	2
Caravans - illegal occupation of site.	2	2
Food exposed to contamination.....	1	1
TOTALS.....	40	25

Table IV reveals one facet of time and work involved in the efficient running of a public health department.

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TABLE IV -
LETTERS SENT OUT

<u>Public Health Inspector</u>	
Implementation of Housing Act, and associated matters.....	112
Following up of Public Health Notices.....	18
Factories.....	6
Food Premises.....	4
Government Depts. and official bodies.....	15
Contractors.....	9
Caravans.....	5
Refuse collections and disposal.....	15
Rodent control.....	5
Drainage.....	5
Miscellaneous.....	29
Sundry certificates.....	9

RODENT CONTROL

Visits by Public Health Inspector.....	13
Visits by Rodent Operator.....	105
